

Application No. 09/628,880  
Filed: July 31, 2000  
TC Art Unit: 2151  
Confirmation No.: 4970

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending.

In the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Tripp, U.S. Patent 6,516,337 was maintained. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully noted that the present application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of provisional patent application 60/146,469 filed July 30, 1999. It is further noted that the filing date of Tripp is October 14, 1999. Because Tripp has a later filing date than the §119(e) priority date of the present application, Tripp does not constitute prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Withdrawal of the present rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Based on the foregoing, it is believed that all the claims of this application are presently allowable. Favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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